COMTYPE

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING AND
TRADE COMPOSITION PACKAGE

digital

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COMtype is a cost-effective typesetting, editing, and text management system especially designed for advertising, trade, book, and in-house typesetting applications. It processes inputs from typists, on-line video terminal operators, OCR units, industry compatible magtape, and/or local or remote word processing systems. At the same time, the system is capable of processing outputs to line printers, on-line photocomposers, paper tape punches and remote terminal users.

Concurrent with these input/output functions, the system's text management scheme provides each editing terminal operator with access to files or documents for proofreading, markup, editing or review. The COMtype "multi-tasking" environment allows each user independent access to all stored text files and system commands.

The COMtype software monitor automatically records each user-initiated operation and schedules the request to the appropriate system hardware device on a user defined priority basis. This not only relieves the department manager of the scheduling burden, but also results in more accurate scheduling control.

Digital Equipment Corporation has worked closely with commercial typesetters for many years to design needed input/output flexibility, and typographic sophistication for ease of use in non-computer oriented composing rooms and text processing departments. Our Graphic Arts programming staff understands the need for reliable software. They also recognize the importance of hyphenation accuracy, typographic aesthetics, and the needs for flexibility in handling jobs requiring aesthetic kerning, hung punctuation, small caps, ligatures, tabular matter, special pi characters and logos, typeface variety and complex run-arounds. The COMtype system software reflects this knowledge and experience.

Among the major benefits that a COMtype system brings to commercial typography . . .

- The typographic excellence of aesthetic kerning, hung punctuation and quality ragged composition together with the consistency of a computer.
- Easily-learned command language with simplified and defined commands that save markup time.
- Complete control of type color by variation of white space.
- Formats and automatic makeup features that save page makeup and copyfitting time.
- Interactive VDT's make editing, proofing and correcting fast and simple.
- Pre-composition editing problems disappear.
- Tabular work is simplified.
- Operator statistics and story directories are maintained and updated automatically.
- Vertical justification.
- Internal page counter for auto-incrementing and output.

Plus these growth features . . .

- Expansion and growth to large numbers of VDT's.
- Typesetting applications business systems available.
- Foreign language hyphenation.
- Remote data input, output and/or VDT editing.
- Compatibility with DIGITAL Word Processing System for text preparation.
- Compatibility with other computer data bases via industry compatible magnetic tape.

And the security of . . .

- Field-tested hardware and software.
- DIGITAL's total system support.

THE BASIC COMtype SYSTEM

- Monitor/executive program for both manual and automatic production control and management.
- Photocomp driver program customized for your specific photocomposers.
- Exception-word dictionary editor for user-customization to maximize hyphenation accuracy.
- Aesthetic kerning editor to tailor your products.
- Format editor for simplified format creation and updating.
- Command definition editor.
- Hung punctuation editor.
- Statistics and management report generator.
- Auxiliary programs for copying disk packs and DECtapes.

VIDEO TERMINAL EDITOR

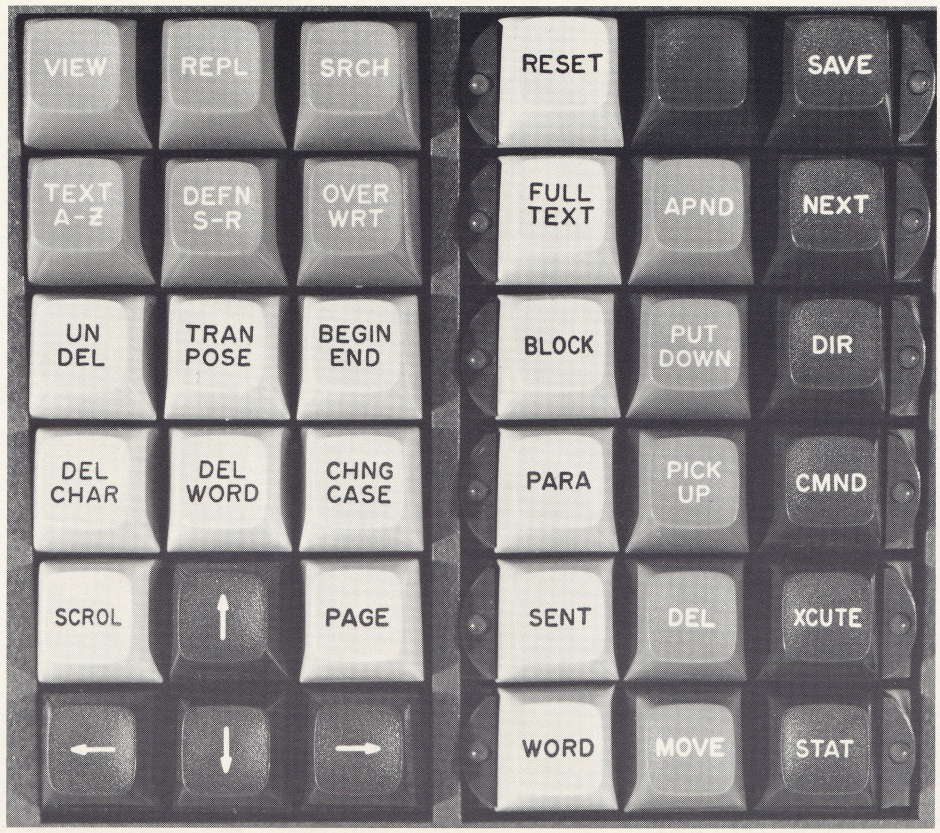
The video terminal control software supplied with the COMtype system supports the easy to use, yet incredibly powerful VT71/t text editing terminals. Text stories are transmitted to terminals at 9600 baud for user review and correction. Typeface, column width, line endings, tabular column positioning, page breaks, text, etc., can be changed from the terminals with a minimum of keystrokes.

After the copy is corrected, the story can be returned to the COMtype system rejustified and restored in its corrected version, ready for typesetting or future editing.

The VDT editor also provides system control for the terminal user. User directories, story routing and file priorities can be defined or modified from the terminal allowing for complete flexibility of copy management and work flow.

Some Video Editor Features:

- Single keys for deleting characters and words and for defining sentences, paragraphs and blocks.
- Single key functions for delete, move, hold, transpose and change case.
- Optional typesetting of corrected portions only.
- Thirty-two (32) fully user definable keys for repetitious text and/or commands.
- Large 20 point, flicker-free character display on terminals.
- Local and remote terminal operation.
- Twenty-six (26) text storage locations per terminal for holding text and commands for later recall or complex repositioning of copy from one end of a file to another or from one job to another.



MONITOR/EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

Editors and perforator operators have complete control of every story in the system at each stage of production. They can direct any story to the line printer for proofs or to the punches or to the on-line phototypesetter for finals. They can also save stored files in paper tape, DECtape, magtape or floppy disk for transfer to another system or for future updating, and they can retrieve these story files for reactivation. They can combine several stories or story parts into a single take. The Monitor/Executive Program also allows the department manager to override the commands of the terminal editors and input operators. Thus, the decision to print or final any story file or files can be made at any stage of production. Using the Monitor/Executive Program, the department manager can monitor the operators; he can quickly check a story by requesting a line printer proof, or reviewing the story directory entries.

Last-minute or page-proof corrections are made with ease on the COMtype system. Partial file editing and typesetting commands allow the user to update an entire file for future use and typeset only the updated sections of the file.

A convenient queue command, which can be issued from either the console or the editing terminals, lists the current status of the system, giving the department manager an immediate, up-to-date report of the system load on the paper tape readers, paper tape punches, on-line photocomposers and the line printers. Through this report, every story file can be tracked right up to deadline.

Features of the Monitor/Executive Program . . .

- Queued proofs, finals, and kills for automatic and manual production management.
- Complete file priority control.
- Partial file typesetting capability.
- File protection.
- Operator statistics and story file directories.
- Stored files saved on paper tape, DECtape, magtape or floppy disk.
- Multiple takes from optical character readers and paper tape readers.
- Direct output of finalized stories with manual kill or auto-kill (optional)

DATA BASE COMPATIBILITY

COMtype is a tailored typesetting system built around the world's most accepted minicomputer and peripherals—a combination that opens the door to many data processing environments. Input media such as industry compatible magnetic tape and punched cards are currently working with DIGITAL's typesetting systems.

Pre-typesetting data processing or manipulation can be accomplished on the PDP-8 minicomputer using one of the several programming languages available from DIGITAL. If in-house programmers are not available, DIGITAL offers field-resident software consultants who can provide you with the necessary assistance to get the job done.

MULTIPLE PHOTOCOMPOSERS

COMtype can drive a wide variety of photocomposers. As a result, new photocomposition devices can easily be integrated into an existing system with markup language and file compatibility.

TASC is a DIGITAL Graphic Arts organization of software specialists that provide COMtype users with the necessary assistance for implementation of their unique typesetting applications. This assistance includes consultation, job engineering, system programming, or special software modifications.

COPY MARKUP AND KEYBOARDING

Complete typesetting and composition capabilities are available to markup personnel with the COMtype Photocomp Driver Program—a program developed through experience to simplify markup and keyboarding by giving the markup department the commands needed to do the job. Commands are included for aesthetic kerning, hung puctuation, vertical justification, galley and column makeup, reverse leading, copyfitting, tabular copy, page makeup formats and other important features.

No special markup commands are necessary for copy input and storage. Text can be marked up at any stage of the copy flow cycle prior to typesetting. In this manner, input, proofreading and markup specialists can be assigned to jobs when the time is best for production scheduling. Copy markup is accomplished quickly and easily from initial copy preparation or from the on-line editing terminals. Typists type exactly what they see, using standard 6-level TTS* keyboards, custom keyboards of the user's design, OCR-equipped typewriters or on-line visual display terminals.

For repetitive copy, markup personnel prepare formats, which the keyboarders use in place of the composition commands. Formats further reduce markup and keyboarding time and enable display ads and other complex copy to be handled easily.

For efficient story and page makeup of advertisements, technical manuals, publications and books, the COMtype system provides a number of automatic text positioning commands. For verical makeup, the system handles both vertical expansion and reduction of user defined text segments. Using automatic leading variation and/or positive or negative vertical space bands, the system will vertically lead specified text segments to the required length, following user defined justification tolerances, and will report action taken in preparing the copy to the requested depth.

*TTS is a registered trademark of Fairchild Corp.

In addition, the system will display running depth information from point to point within a story and line numbers on both the line printer proof and/or phototypeset copy. These tools greatly reduce time required for dummying or marking page breaks and jumps.

For complex area/character markup the system provides for automatic single and/or multiple character leadering, automatic positioning of drop initials, automatic access and exposure of pi characters and the automatic underlining of text defined by user command.

If the justification and hyphenation program encounters a line in which it is forced to exceed optimum, user defined, justification standards, the COMtype software automatically flags the line for terminal or hard copy review. The notation displays all justification values for the questionable line, including: point size, interword spacing, letter spacing or kerning, line length remainder. This feature assures a high-quality standard of typographic craftsmanship with a minimum of human intervention.

In addition to determining proper line endings, the justification and hyphenation program handles the aesthetic properties of character composition which are enabled by the user for the specific job.

Aesthetic character kerning is generated by user-edited tables of up to 350 character combinations per typeface, and is controlled by a user-defined point size relativity scale that provides the exact effect desired, regardless of point size. The user can also control ligature generation or building, the use of hung punctuation, and the values of set size reduction and/or expansion for each typeface.
Utilizing these features, styles, formerly only obtainable by manual composition, can now be matched and controlled for each individual customer and job!

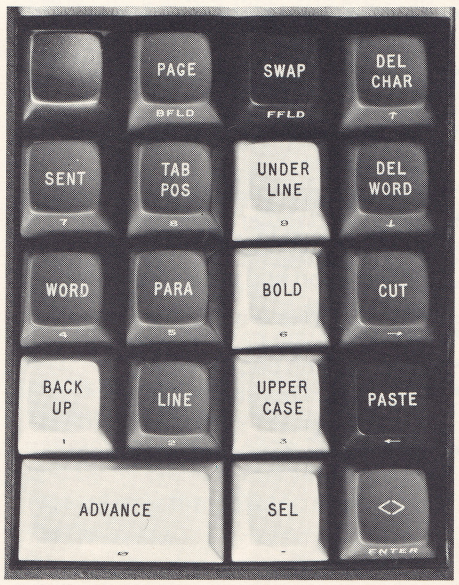
Tabular composition is completely simplified and is concisely displayed on the editing terminal and line printer for ease of review and correction—before costly typesetting. Automatic indent commands are also available for simplification of outline styles and complex technical documents.

Features of the Photocomp Driver Program . . .

- User-defined commands
- User-defined formats (2 levels)
- Vertical justification
- Automatic column makeup
- Automatic galley makeup
- Aesthetic kerning and automatic ligature handling
- User-controlled hyphenation and spacing
- Discretionary space and hung punctuation
- Pi characters from window or disk
- Simplified tabular commands
- User-defined foreign language hyphenation and exception word dictionaries
- Single-column page makeup
- Multi-column page makeup
- Automatic counter for page numbering
- Justification tolerance reporting

WORD PROCESSING CAPABILITIES

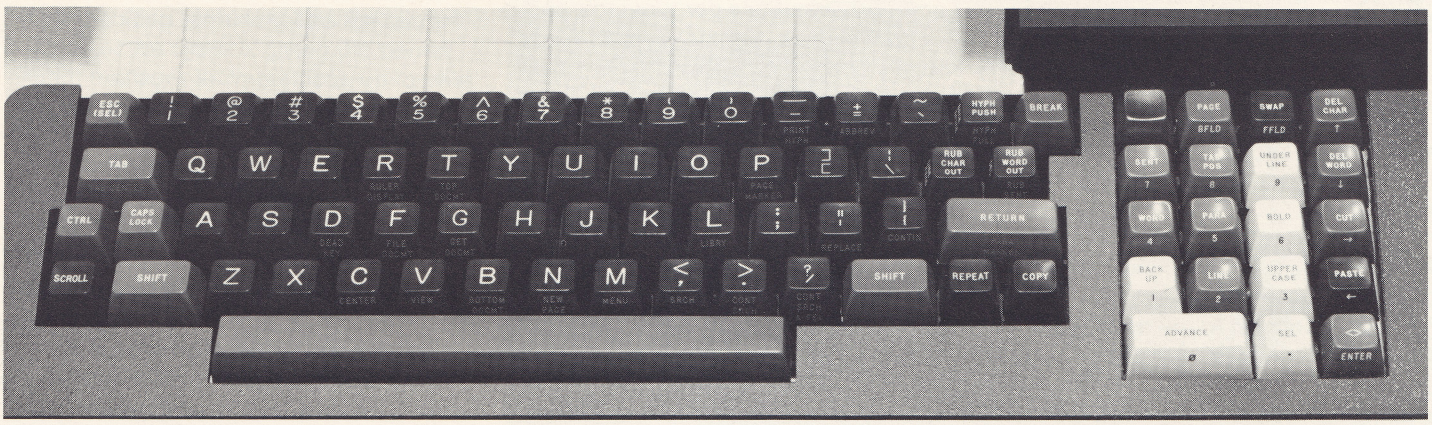
For text acquisition from the office environment, COMtype offers data compatibility to Digital Equipment Corporation's line of word processing systems. These highly simplified, powerful word processing systems store documents on flexible diskettes (called floppy disks) for output to letter perfect printers or for data transfer via the diskettes to the COMtype system for markup and photocomposition.

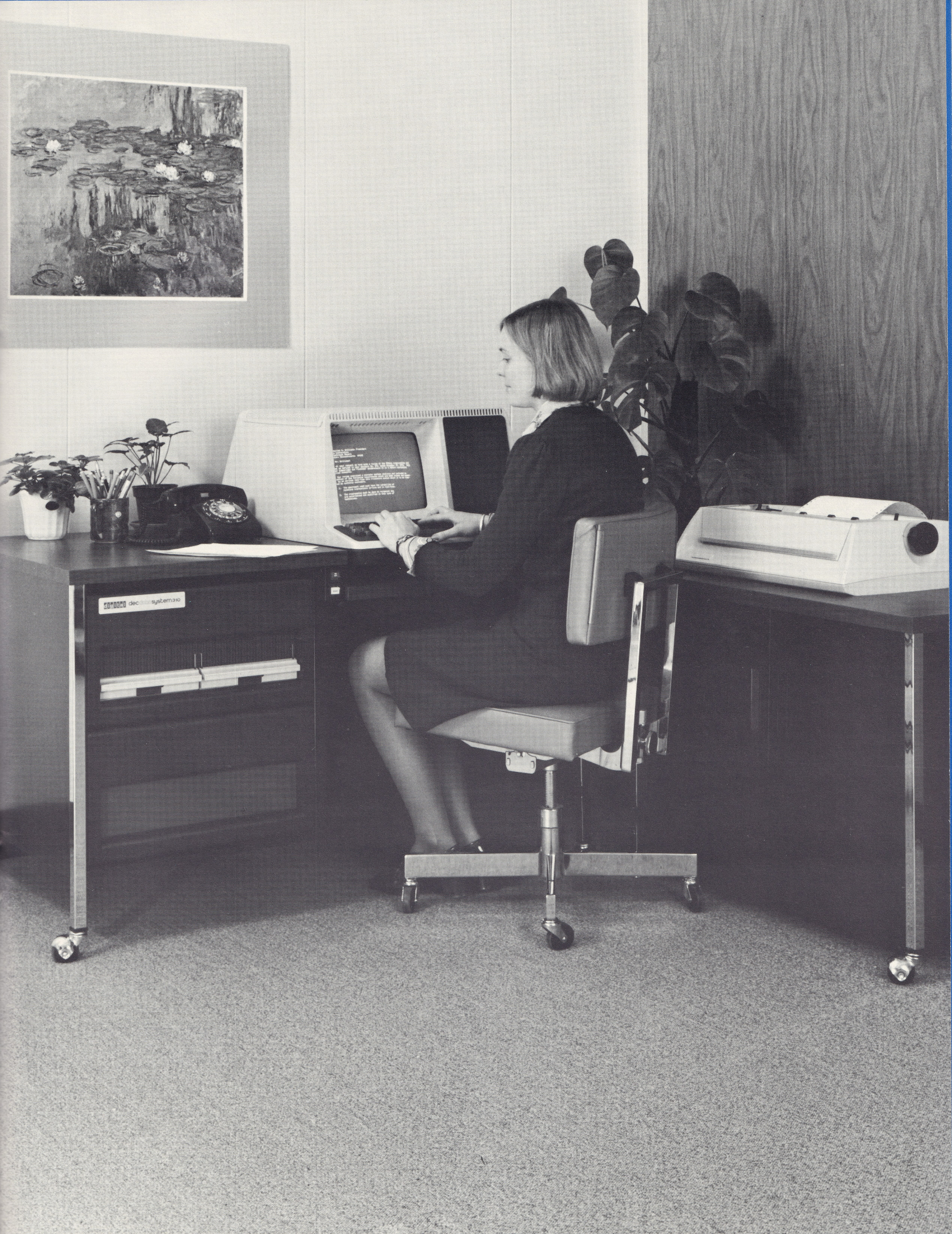


The WS102 Word Processing System is a dual-terminal processor that offers . . .

- Cue card prompting of commands via visual display
- Turn-key software
- Prestored rulers for margin, printer spacing and tabbing control
- Format information stored with each document
- Variety of printer output for mailing labels, envelopes, letterheads, pre-printed forms, etc.
- Simultaneous printing and editing
- Typewriter quality output at 500 words per minute
- Selectable pitch and typeface
- Justified margins
- Underlined and bold face printout
- Time and date indexing of documents
- Intelligent terminal emulation
- Mailing list utilities
- Form letter merge
- Shorthand abbreviation dictionary
- Library text insertion of boilerplate copy
- Full editing features including:
  - bi-directional search
  - block move by electronically selecting, cutting and pasting
  - editing by common grammatical entities—character, word, tab, column, sentence, line, or page
  - insertion of entire documents into other documents
  - swap of transposed characters
  - three methods of pagination—fully automatic, semi-automatic, or manual
  - automatic page numbering with text control
  - user-controlled header and foot note text
- Medium-speed impact printer
- Communications option

Using this capability, COMtype users can offer their customers the maximum benefit of word processing as well as turn around speeds and cost savings never possible before this automated integration of the typesetting and office speciality areas.





VIDEO DISPLAY EDITING AND PROOFING

Editing and proofing are carried on independently of other COMtype functions, so the computer isn't tied up unnecessarily. The edit cycle begins when an operator requests a file and the computer responds by transmitting the requested text directly to the user's video display terminal. The line endings displayed on the screen are exactly the same as the proof copy that is output on the line printer. All editing and copy rearranging is accomplished at the terminal by typing special keys and regular keyboard characters. Thus, the operator can insert, delete, move, or overstrike characters, lines and blocks of text. Special scroll keys allow the user to move the field of view to any part of the displayed text.

Once the copy is edited, the operator depresses another key and transfers the story back to the computer. The copy is then justified and hyphenated, re-examined for line endings, and output to the line printer or photocomp device or returned to storage.

The video display editing and proofing features of the COMtype System provide a fast and efficient means of handling text.

Some VDT editing features . . .

- Clear 20-point character display with smooth pan scrolling.
- 96 upper and lower-case characters.
- Keyboard functions exclusively designed for text management and typesetting, including 32 user-definable keys.
- Block moving and holding for easy rearranging of copy.
- Character and string search with automatic replace, delete or move or hold on the match(es).
- Automatic word wraparound and flicker-free display for superior legibility and reduced operator fatigue.
- Remote editing via standard modem control.
- Variable speed cursor movement.
- Special-purpose keys for undelete, transpose, and change case.

SUPPORT AND SERVICE

Almost as important as your COMtype are the local services which support it. DIGITAL's field service organization has engineers at offices throughout the world. Services range from single- and multi-shift coverage through a local office to resident service in which the engineer is located right at the customer's site.

Field offices also provide software specialists to handle service calls and arrange for on-site customer training. Formal software and applications training is available to every COMtype customer through DIGITAL's Educational Services Department. Schedules are available from any DIGITAL office for training courses in Massachusetts, California, France, Germany, and the U.K.

Some of the things you can count on from DIGITAL . . .

- Custom system analysis and design
- Programming
- Hardware design
- System integration
- Installation
- On-site training
- Local maintenance
- System Service
- Documentation
- Modular growth capabilities

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